Wisconsin Urban & Community Forests
A Quarterly Newsletter of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Program

Urban Deer Management in Wisconsin

by Ricky Lien
DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management

This is the first in a series of articles on urban wildlife provided by the DNR's new urban wildlife specialist Ricky Lien. Despite being based at our Southeast Region in Milwaukee, he has statewide responsibility. Though he is not the front-line contact for urban wildlife problems, as you will note later in the article, Ricky may be reached at 414-263-8622 or lienr@dnr.state.wi.us. *- Editor.*

Photo credit: WDNR

Controlling deer in communities requires a concerted long-term effort.

It's hard to look at the 1929 survey of deer in Wisconsin, detailed in Otis Bersing's classic book, *A Century of Deer in Wisconsin*, and imagine a time when there were less than 30,000 deer in the whole state. In fact, there were 21 counties in which the conservation wardens and sportsmen of the day thought that deer were either non-existent or extremely scarce.

How times have changed! Wisconsin heads into the 21st century expecting to have a record deer herd of 1.7 million before this fall's hunting season. While acknowledging the deer's place as the most visible of our game animals, wildlife biologists are struggling to keep this herd under control and to bring its number down to management goals. Hunting remains the traditional, and best, tool to accomplish this. But deer management in urban areas, where hunting might not be an option and citizens' viewpoints are diverse, has become one of the more controversial wildlife management problems of our time.

We don't have a good handle on how many urban communities in Wisconsin are having a problem with deer, however we do know it's an increasing problem. Cities, towns and villages increasingly have to deal with car–deer accidents, complaints from citizens about deer damage and habitat destruction done by deer in urban natural areas. And while there are some non-lethal abatement techniques to lessen the damage and nuisance caused by deer, many times our message to the municipality is, "If you have a problem with too many deer in your municipality, get rid of some of the deer."

Over the past years, some guiding principles have developed that help the DNR work with communities in these situations. Let's look at some of the guidelines for an urban community thinking about lowering their deer population.

- **What's the right number?** – This is one of the hardest questions a community has to grapple with after they've made a decision that they have too many deer. And it's one we can't answer for them. The number of deer that a community wants is a *community decision*. There is no biologically correct number. The biological carrying capacity of many of our urban areas can be over 100 deer per square mile. What the community needs to determine is the social carrying capacity—how many deer the citizens are willing to tolerate. I can think of one southeastern municipality that recently surveyed its deer and found over 60 per square mile of habitat. Yet, in their view they don't have a problem because they have few car–deer accidents or citizen complaints. Another community aggressively manages to try to keep

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WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Community Profile
Tree City USA: 21 years; Growth Award 1992
Population: 61,000
Street Tree Population: 27,000 (estimated)
Miles of Street: 318
Number of Parks: 5 major parks
Total Park Acreage: 700 declared park acres
Public cemetery acreage: 120
Primary Industries:
UW–Eau Claire
Chippewa Valley Technical College
National Presto Industries, Inc. (small household appliances)
Nestle Food Company
Luther/Midelfort/Mayo Health System

Program Profile:
Parks and Recreation Department, Forestry Division Staff:
Rod Schmidt, City Forester
Mark Grey, Arborist
Dave Elliott, Tree Trimmer–II
2 Arborist–I positions pending
3 summer temporaries

Heavy Equipment:
aerial basket
clam loader on tri-axle
stumper
water tanker
2 chippers
2 flat bed trucks

2000 Operating Budget: $391,000

Community Profile:

City of Eau Claire

by Cindy Casey
DNR West Central Region

Named after the Chippewa River tributary the voyageurs called *eau claire* (meaning "clear water"), the present-day city of Eau Claire is western Wisconsin's largest community. Settled by French traders in 1784, this outpost at the confluence of the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers remained small until the late 1830s when pioneers descended on the area, drawn by the vast white pine forests and the promise of enough lumber to build a new nation. The area's estimated 46 billion board feet of timber, the holding ponds, sawmills and lumberjacks are long gone, but Eau Claire's nickname, "Sawdust City," remains.

With its prominent forest history, it's no surprise Eau Claire was a bit of a pioneer in urban forestry as well. The city was one of five in Wisconsin to earn the Tree City USA award in 1976, the year this National Arbor Day Foundation program began. Eau Claire hired its first forester one year earlier, in response to an overwhelming need to manage losses from Dutch elm disease. Although over 50,000 elms were removed in a few short years, control efforts largely paid off. A sizable elm stand still remains in Owen Park, where nearly 100 of the trees—roughly 60 percent of the park's original elm population—hint at the canopy that once characterized many Midwestern communities.

In recent years, forestry's focus has shifted to reforestation and afforestation. The city currently plants over 800 terrace trees every year, primarily in conjunction with major public improvement projects and development of new subdivisions. Community block grants provide supplementary funds for planting in older neighborhoods. The city maintains a partnership with Northern States Power, planting short-stature replacement trees where large ones are removed near overhead power lines. Approximately 100 additional terrace trees are planted annually by residents in a popular rebate program—the city gives a $60 per tree rebate, subject to a maximum of two rebates per parcel per year. City staff provide maintenance on all terrace trees at no additional cost to adjacent property owners.

Staff prune approximately 2000 city trees each year, primarily in the form of crown lifting and removing unsafe limbs. All parts of the city have been safety pruned at least once. In spite of a steadily increasing tree population, forestry program staffing remains at the same level it was 25 years ago, making it difficult to substantially expand pruning efforts to include structural pruning of small trees and regular maintenance of larger ones.

Although forestry and engineering work together to retain trees where possible, many of the approximately 200 tree removals each year occur in conjunction with public works projects. Wood chips and stump grindings from tree removals are made available to

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Project Profile:

A Forest Grows at Lincoln Elementary School

by Barbara Wyatt
Wisconsin Chapter
American Society of Landscape Architects

Lincoln Elementary School in Madison, Wisconsin, is one of the city's most diverse and energetic grade schools. Situated on the south side of Wisconsin's capital city, the school has housed some unique programs and attracted a staff of creative teachers. The school strives to foster academic excellence and community pride, to celebrate the diverse background of the student body and to provide stimulating opportunities for all students, especially the many that come from low-income families.

When the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects decided to undertake an educational program for young children and provide design services to a site in need, Lincoln School provided the ideal setting. Built in 1965 on a former golf course, the school occupies most of a city block that is largely bare of plantings, has minimal play equipment and has functional problems related to access and bus drop-off. In off-school hours, the facility serves as a neighborhood park because of a lack of parks in the vicinity. The school was additionally appealing because two WASLA board members had children in the school and, as parents, they were actively involved in school issues. Principal Carolyn Stanford-Taylor and Clare Seguin, the teacher responsible for science and environmental education, were enthusiastic about WASLA's proposed contribution.

In 1998, a committee of WASLA members began preparing a master plan for the school grounds. In the spring of that year, through Clare Seguin's classes, every student in the school was introduced to concepts of landscape architectural design and was encouraged to contribute design ideas to the master plan. Members of WASLA visited Clare's classes to talk about landscape architecture. Later that year,

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Eau Claire *continued from previous page*

residents at three sites in the city. The Merry Mulch program—an annual cooperative effort between the city and Eau Claire County—also allows residents to recycle their Christmas trees for mulch. Forestry also conducts timber stand improvement practices on several city properties. Past timber harvests have generated as much as $10,000.

Eau Claire's forestry program has produced a number of publications in recent years, designed to help residents learn about and care for trees. *A Boulevard Tree Selection and Planting Guide* has been adapted and used by other area communities. *The Urban Tree Walk*, featuring descriptions of unique trees on the UW–Eau Claire campus, is a popular resource for local schools and is reprinted each fall in response to the high demand. Other recent public awareness efforts have included two urban forestry grant-funded projects: a *Pruning Guide* for residents, and an oak wilt awareness campaign that included billboard messages and presentations to area developers and home builders.

This spring, City Forester Rod Schmidt has found himself immersed in preparations for hosting a Nickelodeon event in Eau Claire on June 17th. A two-hour television broadcast will be preceded by a three-hour field day in which 5000 kids and their parents are expected to take part in various natural resources projects around town. As anyone in Schmidt's line of work knows, ordering 7000 seedlings late in the spring and arranging for their planting by a small army of volunteers can cause more than a few tense moments!

Schmidt has witnessed many changes during his 25-year tenure as city forester. Key among them is the shift in his role from a field person to an administrator. "I always enjoyed going out and working with property owners," says Schmidt. "Unfortunately, there's little time for that anymore." Because time constraints prevent him from providing much on-the-job training, Schmidt is eager to welcome two new climbing arborists to his crew by late spring. The positions represent an upgrading of vacancies

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Lincoln School

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WASLA was awarded an urban forestry grant from the Wisconsin DNR that would enable WASLA to broaden its work at the school. In addition to funding tree planting, the grant provided funds for field trips to forests and the purchase of tree- and forestry-related curriculum materials.

Photo by David Stephenson, WDNR

Recieving the International Society of Arboriculture Gold Leaf Award for Outstanding Educational Activities are: back row: representing the WASLA – Barbara Wyatt, Bill Bauer and Bruce Woods, front row: representing Lincoln Elementary School – students Blia Xiong and Isaac Whitaker, teacher Clare Seguin and Principal Carolyn Stanford-Taylor.

A primary goal for the funding was implementation of the "school forest" component of the master plan. The forest was proposed for the southern end of the lot and was intended to provide educational opportunities for students and enhance the campus by screening apartment development to the south. Planting was scheduled for Arbor Day, April 30th, 1999. The celebration eclipsed any the school had ever sponsored.

Twenty-five trees were planted with a large tree spade operated by Steve Lingard, a Madison-area nurseryman who specializes in planting large trees. Trees were donated by Herman Landscape Service. The day included a ceremony in the gym featuring the children singing songs and reciting poems about trees. Art work and creative writing projects were inspired by the celebration. Invited guests included local politicians and representatives of neighborhood groups and city and town agencies. The celebration culminated in the planting of a large bur oak, with the entire school and guests watching.

Over the summer, the Town of Madison Fire Department watered the trees. Fire Chief David Bloom was reminded of watering needs by one of the town's foremost tree experts Jerry Storlie. All trees survived the year after planting, and plans were made for another Arbor Day celebration in 2000. On April 26th three trees were planted by Lingard and this year the celebration included an award ceremony. Wisconsin Arborist Association President David Stephenson presented two beautiful plaques—one to Lincoln School and one to WASLA—from the International Society of Arboriculture, in recognition of the Arbor Day celebration in 1999 and WASLA's role in planning the event. In turn, WASLA president Paul Skidmore presented Lincoln School with a stone commemorating the centennial of the ASLA, with hopes it will be placed in paving at the school.

Lincoln teachers have used the emerging forest for classroom activities, and interest in campus planting has spread to other gardening activities. The master plan prepared by WASLA continues to be fine-tuned, with a proposed addition to the school necessitating changes to the original concept. The project was a success by any measure—education, celebration and beautification. We can only guess at the appreciation of the forest by future generations, but if Lincoln students have embraced concepts of conservation and community planning, and have achieved an understanding of landscape architecture, WASLA will consider the effects of the project doubly long-lasting.

Deer

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its deer population to near 25 per square mile. Which one is right? They both are.

- **Bigger is better** – While we can work with an individual landowner or in an individual park, what we would prefer to do is work with as large an area as possible, usually in an urban setting this means we want to work with a city, town or village administration. There are a couple reasons for this. First, deer have relatively large home ranges. Maybe one individual is mad about the deer on his property, but his neighbors are all happy for the opportunity to see them. Working on a larger scale gives us a better chance to gauge the community's feelings about the deer situation. Usually a municipality that undertakes a deer management program has some mechanism such as public hearings or forums by which their citizens can provide input. Second, deer management can be more effective when done on a larger scale. If a whole municipality has a deer problem, but you're only removing deer from one small property, you probably won't solve the problem.
- **Zero is not an option** – No urban area that undertakes a program to reduce its deer herd will be allowed to try to remove all the deer. Deer are a part of the natural community, even if it's an urban community. Studies consistently show that the vast majority of people enjoy and value the

presence of wildlife in urban areas. While there can certainly be too many deer and we're willing to let communities work to reduce their numbers, deer do in fact belong there.

- **Commitment to long-term** – There is no quick fix to deer population problems. Given the deer's ability to reproduce, the lack of hunting in urban areas and the fact that urban areas offer fantastic deer habitat, even if a community implements a program that successfully brings their numbers down to a level they are happy with, deer numbers will almost inevitably begin to rise. Experience shows us that communities that make a long-term commitment to maintain deer at a desired level may be more effective than those who go through cycles of allowing the herd to grow to high levels over a few years, then trying to bring it under control, then allowing it to grow again.
- **Funding** – The municipality has to foot the bill for its deer management program.

So, given these guidelines, what actually happens if a community decides it has too many deer and wants to reduce the population?

First, we'll make absolutely sure there isn't the option of using hunters. Hunting is our first option because it's cheap, it's effective, there's a willing group of hunters out there and we have regulations in place that would allow them a hunting season. And maybe if gun hunting isn't an option, bowhunting might be. But, there can be good reasons that hunting can't be allowed. First and foremost among them is safety, but we also have to take into account access problems and the ability of hunters to harvest enough deer.

So, assuming hunting won't work, the first thing to do is figure out how many deer are actually in the community. The typical method for doing this is a helicopter count of the deer, done in the winter when snow conditions allow the deer to be easily seen. Approximately 10 communities conducted deer surveys in this way this past winter. Here's where the guideline of the community footing the bill for a deer management program really gets noticed—last year it cost $600 per hour to rent a helicopter! It can take up to four hours to survey a community, so it adds up to serious money. In most cases, DNR wildlife biologists flew on the helicopters and did the counting, but some communities opted to hire observers from a private company that provides wildlife management services.

Once a community knows how many deer they have, they get a permit from the department to allow them to remove enough deer to bring the population down to a goal determined by the community. A permit is issued to the community to remove deer by one of two means—sharpshooting or live trapping.

In the case of communities that elect to use sharpshooting, they usually opt to hire one of the private companies that specialize in this activity. There are currently two companies in Wisconsin that offer this service and their reputations are based on doing it safely and effectively. Usually the shooting is done from elevated platforms over bait piles and the permits are written such that many of our normal hunting restrictions are lifted or modified. What happens to the shot deer is up to the community involved as long as they make use of the venison. Many opt to have the deer processed and given to a food pantry. Others offer the deer carcasses to citizens.

Some communities trap the deer rather than use sharpshooters. This method of reducing the deer herd involves special box traps that capture the deer when they're lured into the trap by bait. The deer are then sold to a game farm, with the money from this sale going to the department. It's important to note that the fate of the deer going to a game farm is the same as the deer shot by sharpshooters. In other words, while it might be politically easier for some communities to use traps to get rid of their deer, the deer still end up being shot.

Those, in a nutshell, are the basics of an urban deer program implemented to reduce a deer herd to a level acceptable to the community. Hopefully, the community can bring its population down to the desired goal after a season or two of removing deer. At that point we recommend that they not walk away from deer management—remember our guideline to work long-term. In fact, much like municipalities have annual programs to maintain their forests and budget money accordingly, that is how we tell them to start thinking about their deer herd.

Now, about those urban geese….

Dealing with Nuisance Wildlife in Wisconsin

While we are blessed in Wisconsin with a tremendous wildlife resource, that same wildlife can occasionally cause a nuisance. Whether it's deer eating your shrubs, geese making a mess on your sidewalk or woodpeckers putting a hole in the side of your house, the first step for anyone seeking help in dealing with nuisance wildlife is to contact **Wildlife Services**, an agency of the US Department of Agriculture. The Wisconsin DNR has an agreement with Wildlife Services whereby Wildlife Services provides assistance to people experiencing a problem with nuisance wildlife. Wildlife Services has two regional offices in Wisconsin that you can call.

Waupun: 800-433-0688
Rhinelander: 800-228-1368

Community Tree Profile:

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Apple Serviceberry
(Amelanchier x grandiflora)

by Laura G. Jull
Dept. of Horticulture
University of Wisconsin–Madison

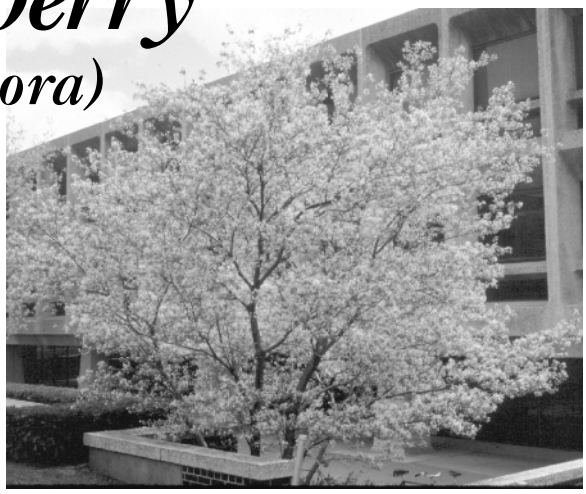


Photo by Dr. Laura Jull, UW–Madison

Apple serviceberry in full bloom

Native To: Hybrid cross that does occur naturally. Parents are *Amelanchier laevis* and *Amelanchier arborea* which are both native to eastern and north central United States and Canada.

Mature Height*: 15' to 30' depending on cultivar
Spread*: 10' to 20' depending on cultivar
Form: Spreading upright, multi-stemmed to single stem, nonsuckering; medium texture.

Growth Rate*: Moderate

Foliage: Egg-shaped, simple leaves with serrated margins and heart-shaped leaf base. Emerging leaves are bronzy and slightly pubescent, changing to medium green and reaching 2–4" long.
Fall Color: Bright orange to red.

Flowers: Showy flowers, pinkish in bud, opening to white; in pendulous clusters in early spring before the leaves emerge.

Fruit: 1/4"-long red pome turning purplish-black when ripe; sweet and edible; produced in June; attracts birds.

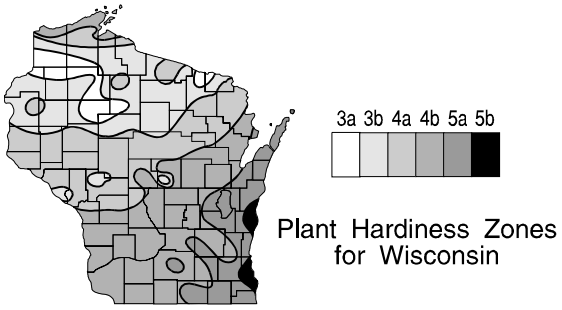
Bark: Smooth gray bark often streaked with vertical black lines.

Site Requirements: Prefers full sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil.

Hardiness Zone: 3a to 8

Insect & Disease Problems: Susceptible to spider mites, leaf miner, borers, pear slug sawfly, rust on the fruit, fireblight, and leaf spot, but hybrid is less susceptible to pests than its parents.

Suggested Applications: Apple serviceberry is an excellent, small landscape tree that can be used under powerlines. It can also be used in small areas or as a specimen in the landscape.



*Urban tree size and growth rate vary considerably and are strongly controlled by site conditions.

Photo by Dr. Laura Jull, UW–Madison

Amelanchier flowers

Limitations: Can develop chlorosis in high-pH soils. Sensitive to drought, road salt, soil compaction and air pollution. Recovers slowly after transplanting.

Comments: Its outstanding display of early spring flowers, edible fruit, showy fall color, and smooth, gray bark provide multi-season interest.

Common Cultivars:
'Autumn Brilliance' – Orange-red fall color; faster growth rate; 20' to 25' tall with rounded form.
'Cole's Select' – Excellent red fall color; 20' tall with spreading form; glossy leaves.
'Princess Diana' – Bright red-orange fall color; 25' tall; leaf spot resistant.
'Robin Hill' – Bright red fall color; 20' to 30' tall with oval form; often single-stemmed tree; pinkish white flowers that fade to white; one of the first cultivars to flower in spring.
'Strata' – Orange fall color; 25' tall, with horizontal branching; abundant flowers.

References:

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses by Michael A. Dirr, Stipes Publishing, Champaign, IL.

Landscape Plants for Eastern North America, 2nd ed. by Harrison L. Flint, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York.

Street Tree Factsheets by Henry D. Gerhold, Willet N. Wandell, and Norman L. Lacasse, Penn State University, University Park, PA.

How Dry is Dry?

Historical records and NOAA web pages can provide the answers

by Glen R. Stanosz, Ph.D.
Departments of Plant Pathology and Forest Ecology and Management
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Throughout each growing season, urban landscape managers need to know whether recent rainfall has been adequate to maintain good tree growth and vigor. As periods without normal rainfall become prolonged, supplemental watering may be very desirable. So during a hot, dry July one might ask, "How dry is dry?" or "Is this a drought?" In other words, how might the need for water be judged?

One simple method is the comparison of recent rainfall with historical records. Most areas of Wisconsin receive 3 to 4 inches of rain per month throughout the growing season. (See Table 1 for examples of July rainfall obtained from a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration web page.) Thus, if you keep track of current rainfall with a simple rain gauge or from information provided on your local nightly newscast, you can easily determine how great a precipitation deficit (or surplus) has occurred. If a sizable deficit exists, a "half 'n half" rule-of-thumb might be applied for watering established trees. Water could be applied to eliminate at least half the deficit that develops in half a month without rain. For example, after two weeks without rainfall in Wausau (i.e., a 2-inch deficit), 1 inch of water would be supplied to the root area of a tree.

Other web pages can provide good estimates of drought status in different regions in Wisconsin and the United States. The US Drought Monitor (accessed at http://enso.unl.edu/monitor/monitor.html) provides a map of national conditions that is updated weekly. Five categories of moisture deficit range from abnormally dry (the mildest deficit) to exceptional drought (the most extreme deficit). As of 18 April, for example, much of the northern half of Wisconsin was considered "abnormally dry" and the southern half of our state was in "drought–first stage." In addition to the map on which categories of drought are indicated, a summary of drought conditions and an outlook for the future is provided for various regions of the country.

Information relating to more specific locations in Wisconsin can be obtained by accessing NOAA's Drought Information Center (http://www.drought.noaa.gov). There, one may link to maps depicting drought status according to either the Palmer Drought Severity Index or the Crop Moisture Index (CMI). Drought status is presented for each of Wisconsin's nine different climatic divisions (see Figure 1 on page 13). As of April 15, for example, Division 4 (comprised of ten western counties) received a Palmer index rating of -2.0 to -2.9 which is equivalent to moderate drought. Differences in the way these indices are calculated make the Palmer

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Table 1. Historical averages of July rainfall for several Wisconsin cities (1961–1990). Source: http://www.cdc.noaa.gov/~cas/Climo/polys/wisconsin.html.

City	Rainfall (inches)
Eau Claire	3.9
Green Bay	3.1
La Crosse	3.8
Madison	3.4
Milwaukee	3.5
Wausau	4.0

What Damaged This Tree?

by Kim Sebastian
DNR Southeast Region

Photo by Mark Drow, Milwaukee County Parks

Turn to page 15 to find out...

What Can You Do for Your Urban Forest?

by Don Kissinger
DNR West Central Region

Here is a list of 50 things anyone can do to make their urban forest better. The list was started by the Sacramento Tree Foundation, Sacramento, California, to identify ways to more actively involve people in the urban forest, **besides just planting trees**. It has been edited and expanded and I have added comments shown in italics. Please enjoy and act upon it.

In speaking with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, I learned that they further whittled this list down to 36 items and are producing a guidebook showing how to enact each one. To find out about this guide, contact Mark Simon, NeighborWoods Coordinator, Sacramento Tree Foundation, 916-924-8733 ext. 114 or e-mail: nbrwoods@sactree.com.

1. Remove grass from area around tree trunks. *Grass competes with tree roots.*
2. Do selective pruning. *No more than ¼ of the live limbs.*
3. Place mulch around the base of a tree. *No more than 4 inches deep. Mulch moderates soil temperature extremes, conserves moisture and reduces weed competition.*
4. Aerate the root zone of a tree. *Don't compact the soil or cover the roots with soil, rocks, construction debris, etc.*
5. Plant a tree—the right tree in the right place. Teach others this concept. *Allow appropriate space between trees and/or buildings. The larger the tree at maturity, the wider the spacing.*
6. Speak with and support your local municipal arborist. *If your community does not have one, show the powers-that-be the merits of having one.*
7. Speak with elected officials about the value of trees.
8. Become a member or partner in your local urban forest program. *Join or start a tree board.*
9. Be active at city council meetings regarding the management of trees. *Be realistic; provide factual information.*
10. Speak with your mayor about trees. *Show that trees are as much a part of a community's infrastructure as street lights, sidewalks, storm sewers, police cars or tennis courts.*
11. Learn what your community is doing for trees. *Commend them for this and suggest what they can further do.*
12. Look closely at city, county, state and school district budgets for hidden funds related to trees and landscaping.
13. Take a walk and notice the trees. *Lay on the ground in a wooded area and look through the crowns of trees. This is even neater.*
14. Pick up garbage. *Be sure not to add any to the land, rivers, lakes or air we rely upon.*
15. Count the topped trees in your neighborhood. Spread the word about not topping. *Be able to explain or show alternative forms of pruning or find people who can.*
16. Identify and protect heritage and landmark trees. *Start a community-wide big tree contest or look for new state champion trees.*
17. Ask your children to explain the values that they see in our trees and talk about the importance of trees.
18. Sketch out the organizational structure of people who control community natural resources in your area. If you don't know, find out.

Coming Events

June 11-13—*The Ecology of Urban Soils: Designing and Managing Soils for the Living Landscape*. St. Paul, MN. Contact: Cindy Ash, cash@scisoc.org or 651-454-7250 or www.scisoc.org/opae/shortcourse.

July13—*Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council meeting*. River Falls, WI. Contact Dick Rideout, rideor@dnr.state.wi.us.

June 20—*WAA Summer Workshop and Tree Climbing Championship*. Woodlawn–Union Park, Hartford, WI. Contact: Bob Gansemer, 262-242-2040 or wallgans@worldnet.att.net.

August 6-9—*International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show*. Baltimore, MD. Contact ISA, 217-355-9411 or e-mail Lisa Thompson at lthompson@isa-arbor.com.

September 9-12—*Grassroots Summit 2000*. Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact: Kathy Sevebeck, Summit Chair, 540-231-2411 or vufc@vt.edu.

19. Make one change in your lifestyle that will have a positive ecological impact.
20. Find a small piece of land and give back to it the ability to sustain many lives. *By performing this on many pieces of land, a reversal of land fragmentation may occur.*
21. Remind neighbors to remove tree stakes. *Be an example and do not stake your trees at all.*
22. Pay your rent to the land on which you live.
23. Use the Internet to see what bills are proposed for the state legislature, make your voice heard.
24. Volunteer to be a member of your school's or church's building and grounds committee. If it doesn't have one, suggest one be created.
25. Talk to a school class or youth group about trees.
26. Talk with your city council and mayor about becoming a Tree City USA. *Or ask your regional urban forestry coordinator to explain the program at a council meeting.*
27. Read a book about trees and share what you learn with somebody. *Buy a book about trees for your local library.*
28. Create an Arbor Day poster contest. *Get your local radio, television and newspaper involved.*
29. Plan an Arbor Day celebration. *Get you local radio, television and newspaper involved.*
30. Take a photograph of your favorite tree and publish a story about it in your local paper.
31. Write your representatives about the value of the urban forest in your life. *Provide ideas of projects that may enhance the value.*
32. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper appreciating the urban forest.
33. Engage children in planting something green and caring for it. *You'll never know how far this small investment may take them. It worked for many of us.*
34. Inventory the trees in your yard, block, school, neighborhood, city. *Then get a professional to help you estimate a value for them. It may amaze you and others.*
35. Create a Master Treescape Plan for downtown and other heavily used areas. *Then approach community managers with the benefits of implementation.*
36. Learn about the native trees in your area. *Then educate others in their proper use.*
37. Create native woodland spaces with other native plants.
38. Seek to find proper cultural practices to address insect or pathological problems rather than always spraying pesticides.
39. Adopt a tree. Visit it often, care for it and watch as it changes through seasons and years. *Encourage others to do the same.*
40. Engage youth and adult service groups to sponsor projects to benefit the urban forest.
41. Create a local arboretum or botanical garden.
42. Create community gardens on vacant lots.
43. Contact a "tree group" about additional information, funding or events; *examples are The National Arbor Day Foundation, National Tree Trust, The Wisconsin Arborist Association, your regional urban forestry coordinator.*
44. Start a fund-raising contest to plant trees at your school, church, park or neighborhood.
45. Install one-foot-tall pieces of plastic drain tile around the trunks of newly planted trees to protect them from lawn mowers and weed whips. *Be sure to remove them when the trunks get bigger.*
46. Plant a tree in memory of a loved one. *Or for one just born or married.*
47. Water a newly planted tree through its first couple of growing seasons.
48. Write a poem to express why you appreciate trees.
49. Make it a goal to learn how to properly prune, plant or assess tree conditions.
50. Encourage local major manufactures, companies and "Mom & Pop" stores to give back to the community by providing resources for planting, maintenance or sustaining a natural area.

Events, cont.

September 26-27—*Trees, People and the Law National Conference*. Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655 or conferences@arborday.org.

September 28-30—*Community Forestry at its Best, a Tree City USA National Conference*. Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655 or conferences@arborday.org.

October 1-4—*Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference*. Holiday Inn South, Lansing, MI. Contact: 517-482-5530 or ashby.ann@acd.net or http://forestry.msu.edu/mfpa/index.htm.

November 9-11—*TCI Expo*. Charlotte, NC. Contact: Carol Crossland, National Arborist Association, 800-733-2622 ext. 106 or Crossland@natlarb.com.

If there is a meeting, conference, workshop or other event you would like listed here, please contact Dick Rideout at 608-267-0843 with the information.

10

Making Meetings More Effective

The following was taken from "Building Effective Partnerships in Small Communities" by the Citizen Forestry Support System. - Editor

Why People Hate Meetings

People have numerous complaints about why meetings don't work. To ensure that your meetings are successful, avoid these common traps:

- *Unclear roles*. Participants are unsure what they are supposed to be doing.
- *Personal attacks*. An individual's character is attacked, rather than his or her ideas.
- *Information overload.* Too much data, facts and figures leads to confusion.
- *Wheel spinning.* Going over the same thing again and again wastes precious time.
- *Unclear expectations.* Participants have different understanding about goals for the meeting.
- *Poor meeting environment.* The space is too hot, too cold, too big or too small.
- *Unclear decision making.* Participants have no power; therefore, they rubber-stamp decisions.
- *Not listening.* Everyone is heading in different directions.

How to Organize and Improve Your Meetings

Good planning and preparation is critical to the success of a meeting. Some factors to consider:

- *Reason for the meeting.* Participants see the necessity and have similar expectations.
- *"Right" people participate.* People who attend have a stake in the outcome.
- *Topics that will be covered.* Participants have a chance to review the agenda, including how the topics will be discussed, and how long the meeting will last.
- *Clear roles.* Participants understand what is expected of them.
- *Meeting Preparation.* The room should be set up to support the meeting's purpose, with necessary materials on hand, and a trusted facilitator prepared to run an effective meeting.

Participant Roles

There are four roles that participants may assume to help meetings run smoother:

The *facilitator* helps the group focus by suggesting ways in which the members can work together. Everyone would have the opportunity to participate and should be protected from having their ideas attacked. The facilitator does not evaluate or contribute ideas, but is the neutral servant of the group.

The *group participant* fights for his or her ideas and shares equally in the responsibility for the success of the meeting.

The *chair* becomes an active participant in the group. The chair/manager may retain all the powers as final decision-maker if the group cannot come to a consensus.

The *recorder* captures ideas of the group on large sheets of paper so that they can be recalled and reviewed at any time.

Structure the Meeting

Before the meeting.

Prepare an agenda. Describe the topics and how they should be handled.

- Set up the room. Make sure the room is appropriate for the type of meeting.

When the meeting begins.

- Establish ground rules. Define roles and how decisions will be made.
- Get agreement on the agenda. Check with the group for any changes.

During the meeting.

- Use recorded notes to reinforce and regain focus.
- Don't talk too much. Have the group take responsibility for its actions.

After the meeting.

- Coordinate post-meeting logistics.
- Distribute materials.

2000 Arbor Day Poster Winner

Evan Laurie, West Salem Elementary School, West Salem, took first place in the DNR's 2000 Wisconsin Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th graders with the poster pictured at left. Amy Skora, Yahara Elementary, DeForest, took second place and Kathryn Vander Velden, Our Lady of the Lakes School, Random Lake, took third. These top three winners, their families and their teachers will be invited to an award ceremony at the capitol in Madison on June 9th.

Images from the Wisconsin

2000 Tree City USA Banquet

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Organization Profile:

Wisconsin's Urban Open Space Foundation (UOSF)

by Heather Mann, Executive Director
Urban Open Space Foundation

Since its founding in 1996, the Urban Open Space Foundation has worked to create more livable cities by increasing the quality and quantity of public open space, and by promoting a broader understanding of the land ethic.

The foundation uses its powers as a land trust to acquire key properties in urban and growing communities throughout the state. Treating open space as an environmental, cultural and recreational resource, the foundation legally protects the land's conservation uses and values. Further, it engages citizens in activities that restore natural landscapes, preserve local cultural heritage and enhance recreational opportunities.

Also, as the leader of Wisconsin's urban open space movement, the organization is helping equip others with the knowledge, tools, people and funding necessary to preserve and enhance the critical urban lands and waters that sustain livable neighborhoods.

In Madison, where the group first got its start, UOSF's conservation programs have focused upon the restoration of historic Tenney Park–Yahara River Parkway and the creation of an urban agricultural center at Troy Community Gardens. UOSF launched Dane County's successful $30-million park and open space referendum. Most recently, UOSF is spearheading plans to transform an abandoned rail corridor only blocks from the state's capitol building. In the corridor they propose a new 25- to 35-acre downtown park, more than 500 new in-fill homes and a substantial number of new jobs.

With the recent support of the state legislature, UOSF has expanded its mission statewide. In Milwaukee, UOSF has partnered with the Midtown Neighborhood Association, America's Outdoors and others for the conservation and enhancement of Lynden Hill—a full city block home to the environmental educational programs of Milwaukee's new Urban Tree House.

Early next year, look for UOSF's first working conference designed to define a statewide urban open space agenda. Conference co-sponsors include Wisconsin's Departments of Natural Resources, Transportation and Administration; Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association; League of Wisconsin Municipalities; Alliance of Cities; Wisconsin Builders' Association; the Wisconsin Chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects and American Planners Association; the State Historical Society; America's Outdoors and others. The conference promises to be a dynamic and creative exchange of ideas.

For information on how you can become a Friend of the Urban Open Space Foundation, contact Executive Director Heather Mann at 608-255-9877.

Deadlines and Datelines

Wisconsin DNR 2001 Urban Forestry Grant Intent to Apply forms will be mailed out in early May to everyone who receives this newsletter. If you are a Wisconsin local government or nonprofit, start thinking about the project you want to undertake in 2001. If you're not sure what you'd like to do, contact your regional urban forestry coordinator (see p. 16) for assistance. **The deadline is June 30, 2000** for submitting the Intent to Apply form. Your project doesn't have to be fully developed at that time, but a complete grant application packet will be sent in August only to those who have submitted an Intent to Apply. **Final grant application deadline is November 1, 2000.**

The Idea Exchange...

Compiled by John Van Ells
DNR Southeast Region

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Certified Arborists

The *2000 Wisconsin Arborist Association Certified Arborist Directory* is now available. The directory lists certified arborists by the services they provide and the counties they serve. Arborist certification is a voluntary program by the International Society of Arboriculture that identifies arborists who have demonstrated a thorough knowledge of tree care practices through a professionally developed exam and education program. Certification is granted to those arborists who: 1) meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the examination; 2) successfully complete the examination; 3) maintain the necessary continuing education for recertification every three years. One of the objectives of the program is to provide the public and those in government a way to make an informed selection of services. *Info: County Cooperative Extension Office or your Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator (see map on page 16).*

New TCUSA Growth Awards

"In an effort to better recognize Tree City communities that receive a Growth Award, we have developed a new Growth Award plaque," says Tina Schweitzer with the National Arbor Day Foundation. "It is a snazzy-looking white lucite plaque with the Growth Award banner and Tree City logo and it has pre-assigned places to put brass emblems with each year that a community receives the award. Every community who receives a Growth Award this year will receive the new plaque." *Info: Tina Schweitzer, Tree City USA Coordinator, 402-474-5655.*

Tree Gift Program

Anytime can be the season of giving. *Greening Milwaukee* would like you to consider the gift for someone who has everything by buying them a tree through Greening Milwaukee's Tree Gift program. For $25 per tree, you can help to have a tree planted in the city of Milwaukee in honor of whomever you choose. Greening Milwaukee, a nonprofit tree planting organization, will mention each honoree in an upcoming newsletter and will send them a written certificate along with a small gift. The trees are planted to improve air quality, increase property values and provide habitat for nature's creatures. It is possible to order trees for any occasion throughout the year. *Info: Pam Stemper, Greening Milwaukee's Executive Director, 414-273-TREE (8733).*

Does your community or organization have an idea, project or information that may be beneficial to others? Please let your regional urban forestry coordinator know. We will print as many of these as we can.

If you see ideas you like here, give the contact person a call. They may be able to help you in your urban forestry efforts.

How Dry is Dry? *continued from page 7*

index a better measure of long-term drought and the CMI more indicative of short-term conditions.

Among the most useful information available in the NOAA web pages is a tabular listing that includes an estimate of the amount of precipitation "necessary to end drought." This table is accessed at http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/cdus/pastdata/palmer/wpdocen1.txt. Updated weekly, these data can be used as an estimate of the need for supplemental watering, and data are presented for each of the nine Wisconsin climatic divisions. During the week ending April 8, for example, it was estimated that 2.46 inches of rainfall were necessary to end the "moderate drought" mentioned above, that was occurring in Wisconsin Climatic Division 4 (Figure 1).

Of course, the actual water demand of an individual tree varies according to species, its size, whether recently transplanted or well-established, site conditions including soil characteristics and the size of the root zone, weather (temperature and humidity, as well as rainfall), and many other factors. Thus, the need for supplemental watering should be considered on a tree by tree basis, and might be beneficial even in the early stages of a drought. The decision to provide supplemental water (and how much), however, can be facilitated by considering historical data and NOAA's helpful web pages.

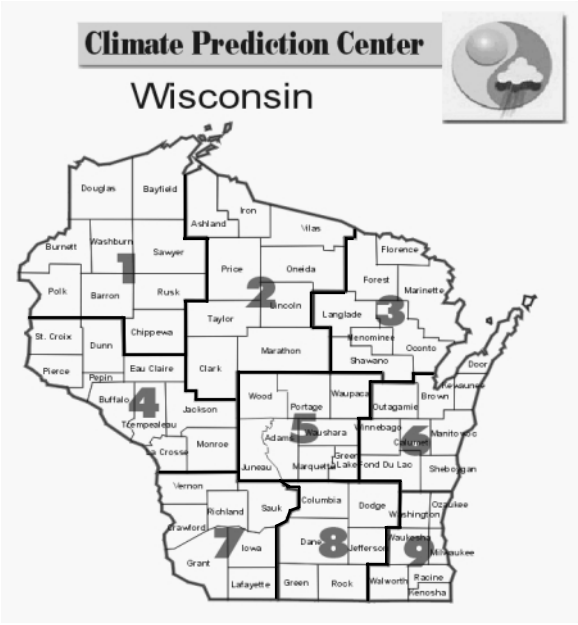

Figure 1. Wisconsin's nine climatic divisions, for which drought indices and rainfall deficits are calculated by NOAA. Source: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/CLIM_DIVS/states_counties_climate-divisions.html.

Council News:

Council Honors Award Recipients

by Dick Rideout
DNR Bureau of Forestry

The 2000 Annual Wisconsin Urban Forestry Conference in Madison was the site of the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Award presentations this past January. Council chair, Roald Evensen, presented the 2000 Project Partnership Award to the City of Lodi and Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley, the 2000 Long-term Partnership Award to Dale Konieczka and Wisconsin Electric Power Company, and the 2000 Distinguished Service Award to David Ladd of Dodgeville.

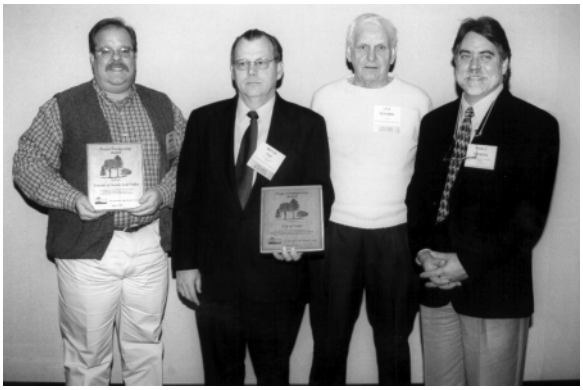

Photo by David Stephenson, WDNR

Council Chair Roald Evensen (R) presents the Project Partnership Award to Kevin Hinkley, Lodi Mayor Paul Fisk, and Lyle "Doc" Bohlman.

The **Project Partnership** Award recognized the collaboration between Lodi and the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley in developing and implementing a community urban forestry program. This includes completing a tree inventory, developing a number of programs and educational functions around Arbor Day, staff and citizen education, coordinating a donation program to plant trees on the high school grounds, developing a trial nursery of new elm cultivars in partnership with the UW–Madison and publication of an informational booklet and guide about Lodi's tree program. These are just some of the many projects that have occurred as a result of this strong public/private partnership.

The **Long-term Partnership** Award recognized Wisconsin Electric Power Company and System Forester Dale Konieczka for the significant positive impact they have made over the years on the urban forests within WEPCO's service area. To assure healthy, safe trees, they train their contract line clearance crews in current tree care standards. Contractors who perform underground work must receive training in trenching and tunneling near trees to protect root systems. They have also helped train employees of other communities in safety around energized conductors. WEPCO's education program is also impressive. This past spring they sent out bill inserts to all 970,000 customers containing information on tree planting and their Shady Deals tree program. In 1999, that program resulted in 989 customers purchasing and planting 1,251 trees. WEPCO regularly participates in tree festivities such as the Zeidler Park Arbor Day planting with Milwaukee County, Trail of Trees Education Walkway in Whitewater, Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Project and tree planting with the City of Waukesha.

Photo by David Stephenson, WDNR

Council Chair Roald Evensen (R) presents the Distinguished Service Award to Dave Ladd (center), Dodgeville Mayor Jim McCauley is at left.

David Ladd, the 2000 **Distinguished Service** recipient, is the driving force for urban forestry in the city of Dodgeville. He led the effort to establish a community tree board in 1993 and has served as chair ever since. His grant writing ability has resulted in nearly $70,000 in grants to support urban forest management activities such as an inventory, management plan, and tree planting and maintenance. During his tenure he has initiated programs such as the Memorial Tree program and the 50/50 Tree Assistance program, coordinated an annual educational program in

Photo by David Stephenson, WDNR

Council Chair Roald Evensen (R) presents the Long-term Partnership Award to WEPCO representatives Dale Konieczka and Jim Newton.

continued on next page

Urban Forestry Resources:

Compiled by Cindy Casey
DNR West Central Region

A Practitioner's Guide to Stem Girdling Roots of Trees: Impacts on Trees, Symptomology, and Prevention, by G.R. Johnson and R.J. Hauer, 2000.
This full-color guide takes an in-depth look at the common and serious landscape tree problem known as stem girdling roots. The book is geared for tree and landscape managers, arborists and other industry professionals who are called upon for field diagnosis of this and other tree health problems. Symptoms, formation, effects, prevention and treatment of stem girdling roots are thoroughly discussed. A section on performing root collar examinations is particularly useful since, as the authors point out, this commonly neglected component of field diagnosis can lead to misdiagnosis and underreporting of the stem girdling root problem. Published by University of Minnesota Extension Service, St. Paul, MN. 20p. List Price: $3.00. The publication is also available on-line at http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD7501.html.

The Compleat Facilitator: A Guide, by B.J. Roberts, K. Upton and the Howick Associates QI Team, 1994.
This easy-to-read and fun book will help you run meetings more effectively. Practical suggestions and tools will increase meeting productivity and improve participation among team members. The book also includes "what if" scenarios that guide readers through difficult situations. Follow the guidelines in this book and people will leave your meetings feeling a sense of accomplishment and time well spent, rather than meeting burnout. Witty and comprehensive, this excellent book is for anyone who has ever attended a poorly run meeting (all of us?) or has attended a well run meeting and wants to know what made it so. Published by Howick and Associates, Madison, WI. 96p. List Price: $29.99. Contact: 608-233-3377.

Eau Claire *continued from page 3*

created by the recent loss of two of his four-person crew. "When you lose two guys with over 20 years' experience each, you want to be able to replace them with someone who can hit the ground running," says Schmidt. "The business isn't about just taking down elm trees anymore. We're dealing with different issues, issues that demand some expertise." He continues, "Besides, we have more laws and standards in the industry now. You need well-trained, capable people in order to comply with the regulations."

The biggest change Schmidt has observed over the years is the increase in environmental awareness among residents. In the past, trees were removed more-or-less routinely. "Now," says Schmidt, "each and every tree is important. Each and every tree is a discussion item. People simply recognize the importance of trees." Unfortunately this awareness doesn't always translate into an awareness of the need to maintain trees. "People like having trees planted and they hate to have them removed, but there isn't always an awareness of the need to budget for tree maintenance and protection," adds Schmidt. In fact, Schmidt notes that his greatest challenges is balancing and melding the perspectives of all those involved—elected officials, staff and residents alike—to support forestry efforts to the extent that trees have the same importance as other components of the city's infrastructure.

With his retirement on the not-too-distant horizon, Schmidt looks upon the future of Eau Claire's forestry program with optimism. "I believe urban forestry will be sustained in this community for a long, long time," he says. We've had good financial support over the years and the council has always made a conscious decision to save trees whenever possible. We brought the city through one of its most devastating times when we fought the Dutch elm disease battle, and we did it efficiently and safely. The issues are different now, but the support is still there."

Council Awards *continued from page 14*

conjunction with Arbor Day and successfully worked with DOT and the community to save trees slated for removal during a state highway reconstruction. He gives not only his time, but his money and has convinced others in the community to do the same. Through Dave Ladd's efforts, Dodgeville's urban forest is model for others to aspire to.

Congratulations to all of the recipients, you are an inspiration to us all!

From page 7 -

What Damaged This Tree?

Answer: Three years after new fence and parking lot construction, this bur oak is beginning to show signs of decline and dieback. Several other trees along this lot also suffer from construction damage. Today this tree is gone—seven years from construction to stump.

Do you have pictures of tree damage others ought to know about? Send them to Kim Sebastian (address on page 16) and we'll print them here!

Wisconsin Urban & Community Forests
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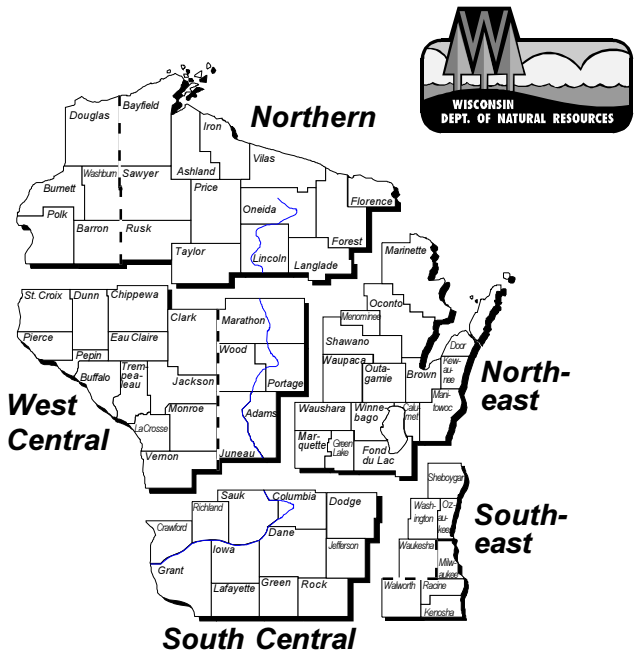

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